

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 08086 01 OF 02 211558Z

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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JCS PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

USDEL MC PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

USEUCOM PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 8086

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: COMMENTS ON
OCTOBER 16 CALOGERAS-STEARN'S MEETING

REFS: (A) ATHENS 8020; (B) ATHENS 8016

SUMMARY: RESTRAINED PERSISTENCE IN CARRYING OUT THE
CURRENT SHIP VISIT PROGRAM AT ELEFSIS IS RECOMMENDED,
RECOGNIZING THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF ITS EXTENSION IS NOT
GREAT BUT WITH THE POSSIBILITY IN MIND THAT A GREEK
NEGATIVE RESPONSE MIGHT BE CONVERTED INTO RENEWED SHIP
VISITS ELSEWHERE. EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO GO EITHER WAY
ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS MOU. ADEQUATE TIME FOR A SECOND
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 08086 01 OF 02 211558Z

REVIEW OF THE SOFA DRAFT AND DIGESTION OF THE RESULTS

IS NEEDED BEFORE A PLENARY. THE NEXT MOVE ON HELLENIKON IS THE GREEKS'; ALTHOUGH RELOCATION OF THE RECONNAISSANCE OPERATION IS LIKELY. ROUND III SHOULD BE SCHEDULED DECEMBER 8 TO PERMIT SOFA AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORK TO BE COMPLETED ON IMPLEMENTED. END SUMMARY

1. SHIP VISITS TO ELEFSIS PIER: THE MANNER IN WHICH THIS ISSUE WAS LEFT AFTER MOST RECENT CALOGERAS AND STEARNS DISCUSSION DOES NOT HOLD OUT ANY GREAT POSSIBILITY OF GOG ACQUIESCENCE IN CONTINUED USE OF THE ELEFSIS PIER FOR SHIP VISITS. NOTWITHSTANDING THE NEGATIVE INDICATIONS CURRENTLY BEING RECEIVED, WE BELIEVE THAT THE STRONG US INTEREST IN CONTINUED USE OF THE ELEFSIS PIER MIGHT, IF CONDITIONS DEVELOP FAVORABLY, STILL LEAD TO A RENEWED ARRANGEMENT. IT CERTAINLY IS WORTH ATTEMPTING, BUT THE CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE OBTAINED DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF VISITS, EXEMPLARY CONDUCT OF THOSE ON LIBERTY AND THE PREVENTION OF ADVERSE PRESS STORIES, INSOFAR AS WE CAN INFLUENCE THIS SITUATION, MUST CONTINUE IN ORDER TO KEEP ALIVE THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUED ACCESS TO ELEFSIS PIER. IF, DESPITE THE BEST EFFORTS OF ALL CONCERNED, THE CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILING IN DECEMBER LEAD THE GOG TO REFUSE FURTHER VISITS TO THE ELEFSIS PIER, WE BELIEVE THE GOG'S DESIRE NOT TO APPEAR TOO NEGATIVE IN ITS SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES WILL ENABLE US TO USE SUCH AN ADVERSE DECISION TO PERSUADE THE GOG THAT THE RESUMPTION OF ROUTINE US NAVY SHIP VISITS TO PIRAEUS, PHALERON, AND ELSEWHERE IN GREECE IS IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH GREECE AND THE US. IN MAKING THIS CASE, WE WOULD NOTE THE SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF VISITS TO ATHENS SINCE SUMMER 1974 BY SHIPS OF THE FRENCH, BRITISH AND OTHER NAVIES. THUS, THE POSSIBLE LOSS OF ELEFSIS NEED NOT BE TOTALLY ADVERSE TO OUR INTERESTS.

2. TELECOMMUNICATIONS: IF THE INTERESTED COMMANDS DO NOT FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT REDUCING TO WRITING THE AGREEMENTS ARRIVED AT IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SUBGROUP, WE WOULD NOT FEEL THE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WORTH PURSUING. HOWEVER, SHOULD THOSE COMMANDS REGARD THE CONCLUSION OF WRITTEN ACCORDS AS ESSENTIAL PRECONDITIONS TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 08086 01 OF 02 211558Z

COOPERATIONS ENVISAGED, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO INFORM THE GOG THAT (A) THE MOU OUGHT TO BE AGREED AND INITIALED BEFORE THE ACTIONS FORESEEN ARE UNDERTAKEN, EVEN IF ONLY AT THE SUBCOMMITTEE LEVEL; (B) THEY COULD LATER BE INCORPORATED AS TECHNICAL ANNEXES IN THE EVENT THE USG IS ABLE TO NEGOTIATE A NEW UMBRELLA AGREEMENT; AND (C) THAT THE MOU COULD REMAIN CLASSIFIED UNTIL THAT TIME, INASMUCH AS THEIR PURPOSE WOULD BE TO GUIDE THE MILITARY

AUTHORITIES CONCERNED RATHER THAN TO SIGNAL ANY POLITICAL EVENT.

3. STATUS OF FORCES: THE REMARKS OF PM CARAMANLIS IN THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE OCTOBER 16 (REF B) PROMISING THE REDUCTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF US FORCES' PERSONNEL TO THE LEVEL OF OTHER FOREIGN PERSONNEL ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE GREEK SIDE IN THE SOFA SUBGROUP. CALOGERAS' SATISFACTION, EXPRESSED ON THE SAME DAY, WITH THE WORK OF THE SOFA SUBGROUP DOES NOT SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS PREFIGURE A NEW AND TOUGHER GREEK APPROACH TO SOFA MATTERS. THE PRESENT WEEK OF RESUMED SOFA SUBGROUP NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD SEE THE COMPLETION OF THE FIRST REVIEW OF THE US DRAFT TABLED IN SEPTEMBER, AND A SECOND REVIEW OF THIS DRAFT SHOULD BRING THESE ISSUES AS CLOSE TO AGREEMENT AS IS POSSIBLE AT THE SUBGROUP LEVEL. A HIATUS OF TWO TO THREE WEEKS BETWEEN THE OCTOBER 20-24 TALKS AND THE SECOND REVIEW OF THE DRAFT SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO PERMIT THE TWO SIDES TO PREPARE FOR THAT REVIEW. THE SECOND REVIEW WOULD THEN BE IN WASHINGTON, IF THE GREEKS AGREE, DURING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 10-14 OR NOVEMBER 17-21. FOLLOWING THIS, ONE OR TWO WEEKS SHOULD BE ALLOWED FOR REASSESSMENT OF THOSE ISSUES ON WHICH AGREEMENT IS NOT REACHED BEFORE THESE ISSUES ARE DISCUSSED AT THE PLENARY LEVEL. A PLENARY DESIGNED, INTER ALIA, TO RATIFY THE WORK OF THE SOFA SUBGROUP, THEREFORE OUGHT NOT TO BE SCHEDULED BEFORE NOVEMBER 24 AT THE VERY EARLIEST.

4. HELLENIKON: THE SELF-CONTRADICTORY ELEMENTS OF THE GREEK POSITION ARE CERTAINLY CLEAR TO CALOGERAS, BUT THEY MIGHT NEED REITERATION AND REINFORCEMENT AT A HIGHER LEVEL BEFORE THE NEXT PLENARY ROUND. MEANWHILE, OUR MOST CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 ATHENS 08086 01 OF 02 211558Z

PROMISING COURSE OF ACTION IS TO IMPLEMENT THE VISIBILITY MEASURES DESIRED BY THE GREEKS WHILE CONTINUING TO EXPLORE THE WAYS IN WHICH A REDUCTION TO 850 MIGHT BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED. WE MUST AT THE SAME TIME RECOGNIZE THAT THE PERSISTENCE WITH WHICH THE GREEKS REFER TO THE RECONNAISSANCE OPERATION INDICATES THAT THEY HAVE IDENTIFIED IT, CORRECTLY, AS THE ONE MAJOR ACTIVITY WHICH MIGHT BE REMOVED FROM HELLENIKON WITHOUT ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE REST OF THE BASE

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 08086 02 OF 02 211558Z

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SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

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JCS

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USEUCOM PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 8086

LIMDIS

OR ON OTHER US MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN GREECE. IT IS
LIKELY, THEREFORE, THAT THE GOG EVENTUALLY WILL DECIDE
TO OFFER AN ALTERNATIVE BASE FOR THE ENTIRE RECONNAIS-
SANCE OPERATION AND INSIST ON ITS REMOVAL FROM HELLENI-
KON. LESS LIKELY IN VIEW OF THE STRONG GOG INTEREST
IN SECURING ECONOMIC AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE FROM THE
USG AS WELL AS IN ENSURING AN ACTIVE USG ROLE IN THE
CYPRUS SITUATION, IS A GOG REQUEST THAT THE RECONNAIS-
SANCE OPERATION BE REMOVED ENTIRELY FROM GREECE. NEVER-
HELESS, THIS CANNOT BE DISREGARDED, AND WE TRUST THAT
CONTINGENCY PLANNING IS GOING FORWARD TO COVER SUCH AN
EVENTUALITY. THE NEXT MOVE ON HELLENIKON IS UP TO THE
GOG.

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 08086 02 OF 02 211558Z

5. TIMING OF ROUND III: SINCE ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL

PURPOSES OF ROUND III IS TO BLESS THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SUBGROUPS ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOFA, BRINGING THESE AS NEAR AS POSSIBLE TO COMPLETION OR FRUITION WOULD BE AN ESSENTIAL PRECONDITION. AS INDICATED IN PARA 3 ABOVE, FOR SOFA PURPOSES NOVEMBER 24 WOULD BE AS EARLY AS A PLENARY OUGHT TO BE SCHEDULED, AND DECEMBER 8 WOULD ALLOW AN ADDITIONAL, DESIREABLE TWO WEEKS TO ENSURE THAT THESE ISSUES ARE FULLY DEVELOPED FOR POSSIBLE ADDRESSAL AT THE PLENARY LEVEL. SIMILARLY, WE ASSUME THAT THE INITIATION OF THE COOPERATION ENVISAGED IN THE AGREEMENTS REACHED IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS GROUP WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE, AND WE CANNOT FORESEE WHAT ACTION MIGHT BE REQUIRED, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS NONE, ON THE MOU MENTIONED IN PARA 2 ABOVE PRIOR TO ROUND III. THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND THAT DECEMBER 8 BE OUR PREFERRED DATE TO INITIATE ROUND III.

6. UMBRELLA AGREEMENT: UNLESS WASHINGTON HAS ALREADY DECIDED BY THE TIME ROUND III TAKES PLACE THAT A NEW BASIC AGREEMENT REPLACING THE MILITARY FACILITIES AGREEMENT BE NEGOTIATED BEGINNING AT THAT TIME, WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD ENGAGE IN PIECEMEAL NEGOTIATION OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE BECAUSE ANY SUCH NEGOTIATION WOULD PLACE OUR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WELL AHEAD OF, AND THUS OUT OF PHASE WITH, THE GREEK-NATO NEGOTIATIONS, THEREBY ABANDONING OUR OFT-STATED POSITION THAT THESE TWO SETS OF NEGOTIATIONS MUST PROCEED ON PARALLEL TRACKS.

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